

COMMENT: Based on article below from <http://wishtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=1020036&nav=0Ra6CUuE>

Please do not take away our right to telephone privacy. As a working mother and full time student, I hate getting annoying advertising phone calls. I don't think that we should be forced to turn our ringers off and miss important calls all for the sake of telemarketing.

Companies which use telemarketing are denying us our right of privacy. They, on the other hand, are not being denied anything by being told to do away with telemarketing. They still have the right to advertise, just not in that particular way.

I have been on Indiana's "don't call" list for almost a year now. It has been HEAVEN. No longer do I have to be rude to annoying salespeople. No longer am I interrupted by unwanted calls when studying.

If you want to be concern about something, crack down on spam. This is completely out of hand. The Internet would run much faster and companies wouldn't be forced to pay for extra bandwidth used because of junk mail.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Kobrowski

November 20, 2002 - Updated 5:09 pm

#### **A Year Later, Telephone Privacy List Faces Threat**

Nearly half of Indiana's families have signed up for the state's no-call list. It has been in place since the first of the year, and it protects people from getting telemarketing calls at home.

Now the Federal Communications Commission is looking at coming up with a national telephone privacy list, which would supercede Indiana's. Some say the federal proposal isn't as strong as Indiana's law, which means you could soon be getting more calls when you don't want them.

"It's been a phenomenal response. It's an extremely popular program, and in the latest survey we took 98 percent of the people who responded told us the law was either extremely successful or very successful for them," said Staci Schneider, Indiana attorney general's office.

But the new law has been tough on telemarketers. "I mean, I think it's important to protect the people we talk to on the phone because they don't ask us to call them. But at the same time I believe a courtesy call - there shouldn't really be anything wrong with that," said telemarketer Bill Curry.

Telemarketers in Indiana could get a break. The FCC is looking at rules that could supercede Indiana's telemarketing law. The state attorney general's office says it could weaken Indiana's law, opening the door to telemarketing calls from companies the FCC regulates. "If they adopt a proposal that could preempt Indiana's law it may open the door for that industry to make the telemarketing calls into your home," said Schneider.

Schneider hopes Hoosiers on the state's no-call list will contact the FCC and make their feelings known. "We have a really good law in Indiana and we've heard from so many people that it does work for them and they're very appreciative of this law. And so we would certainly want to maintain it at its current level and continue to bring the protection to consumers here," she said.

The attorney general's office is encouraging consumers opposed to weaker rules to make their feelings known to the FCC.

"The easiest way to [send your comments to the FCC](#) is over the Internet through e-mail. And there is a link that you can go to. You have to provide a little bit of personal information, but then you can send your comments. And we think it's extremely important that the FCC hear from the public here in Indiana," said Schneider.